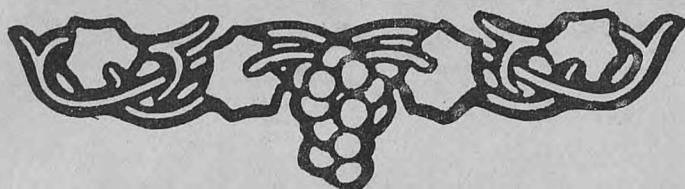


# Trading Post to City

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CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

Photo by H. A. Borden

## Preface



T is the intention of the editors of this work to place in circulation a brief, authentic history of the development of Syracuse from its beginning, as a trading post at the intersection of the Oswego Trail and the trail leading West to the Niagara, to its present status as the Central City of the Entire State.

This history is arranged from reports made by various committees appointed by the teachers of the four American History classes. There were several reports on each event and the editors who were elected in each class read and rewrote each article which is included in this history.

This history is compiled, edited and published by the pupils of the American History Classes of Central High School of Syracuse, under the supervision of Mr. C. L. Hewitt and Miss Edna M. McKinley.

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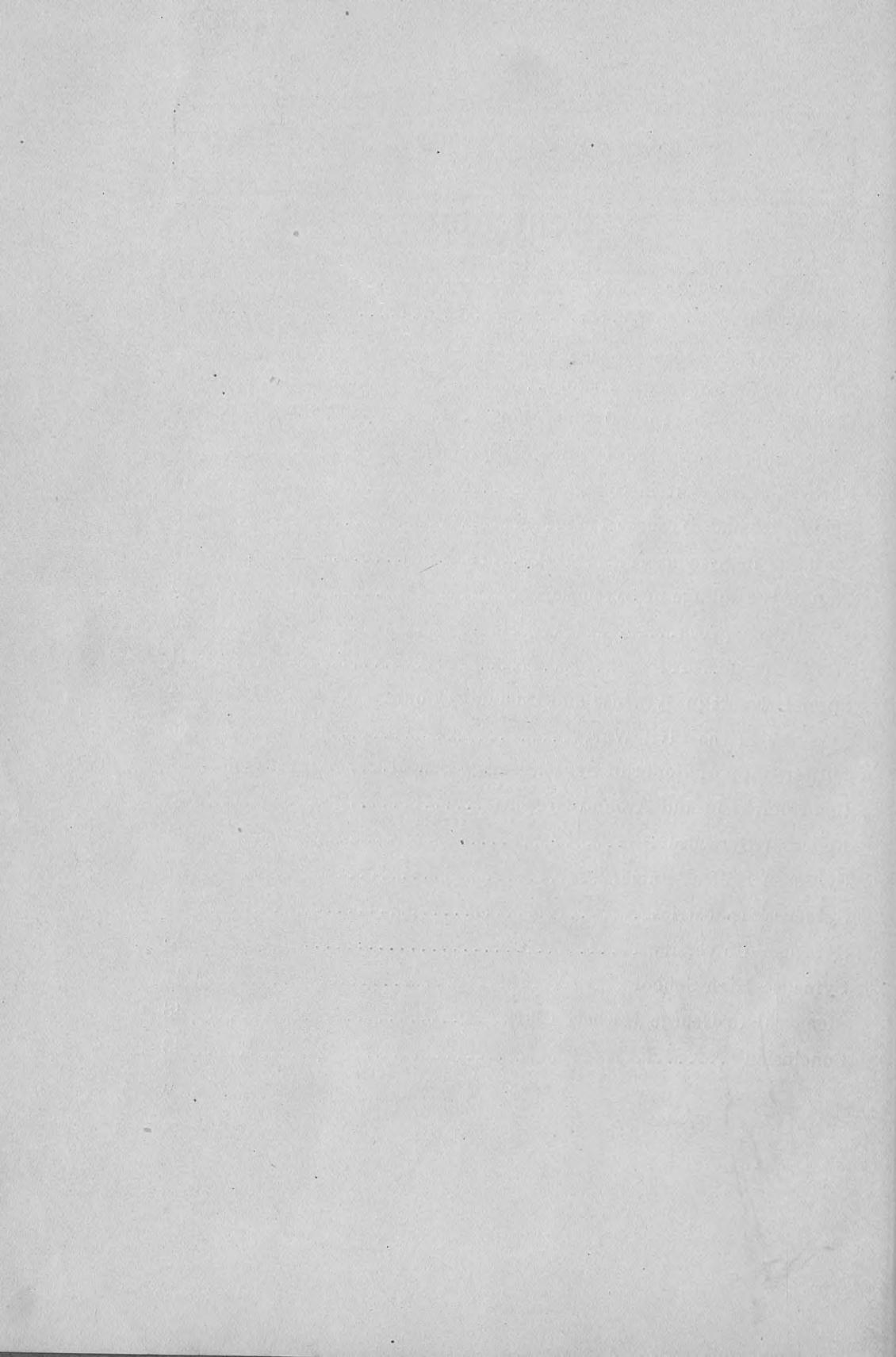
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#### **Noted Artists**

Charles Loring Elliott.

Allen Big Knife, (a deaf mute at Indian Reservation.)

George Kasson Knapp.

Peter Baumgrass.

Dr. Comfort.

Clark Mills (Sculptor.)

Sanford Thayer.

Augustus Rockwell.

James Cantwell.

Mrs. Gail Sherman Corbett.

Henry Ward Ranger.

Hattie Dingman.

## Chronology of Syracuse History

1786—Ephraim Webster came and established a trading post.  
Asa Danforth, the first permanent farmer in the vicinity, settled here.

1787—December 7, Benjamin Neukerck died; the first death in Syracuse.

1788—Comfort Tyler came and started the salt industry.

1793—Mr. Van Vleck brought from Albany a large coffee mill which was used for grinding corn.

1795—The first white man's marriage was performed, that of Thomas Osman and Kathrine Van Derwicher.

1800—December 28, Birth of Abiathar Jackson, the first white child born in Syracuse.

Syracuse was named

- 1806-1809 Bogardus Corners.
- 1809-1812 Milan.
- 1812-1814 South Salina
- 1814-1817 Cossitt's Corners.
- 1817-1820 Corinth.

1819—Judge Forman moved here.

1820—In February the first post-office was established. The place was then named Syracuse by the first postmaster, John Wilkinson.

April 21, the packet boat *Montezuma* arrived on the Erie Canal from the west.

1823—April 2, the first newspaper, "Onondaga Gazette" was printed.

1824—The first church was built in Syracuse proper by the Baptists.

1825—April 13, Syracuse was incorporated as a village.

June 9, LaFayette visited Syracuse.

November 1, Governor Clinton and party passed through the city bearing water from Lake Erie to New York Bay.

1832—July 17, the first case of the cholera epidemic broke out.

1838—The Auburn & Syracuse Railroad was opened.

1839—Syracuse & Utica Railroad was opened.

1841—August 20, the powder explosion occurred.

1847—December 13, Syracuse became a city.

Salina merged with Syracuse.

1848—May, Harvey Baldwin was elected the first mayor.

October, the Oswego & Syracuse Railroad was opened.

1849—The State Fair was held in Syracuse and Henry Clay was present.

1851—In May the American Anti-Slavery Convention was held in Syracuse.

June 10, Daniel Webster spoke on the fugitive slave law.

October 1, the Jerry Rescue occurred.

1854—October 23, the Syracuse Binghamton & New York Railroad was opened.

1856—John Brown spoke at the National Theater.

1860—Stephen A. Douglas visited here.

1861—February 18, Abraham Lincoln passed through Syracuse and gave a brief address.

April, Colonel E. S. Jenney's battery went to the war.

May 2, the Old Twelfth went to the front.

1862—August 31, the One Hundred Twenty-second Regiment departed for the war.

September 23, the One Hundred Forty-ninth Regiment went to the war.

1863—March, the funeral of General E. N. Sumner occurred.

August 21, the Old Twelfth regiment returned from the war.

1868—March 15, Charles Dickens gave a reading at the Witing Opera House.

1871—August 31, the corner stone of Syracuse University was laid.

September 27, the Conkling Fenton Feud broke out in the Republican State Convention.

1874—June 23, the Central Baptist Church disaster occurred.

September 17, Samuel J. Tilden was nominated for Governor.

1875—July to October, the smallpox epidemic prevailed.

1877—February, a snow blockade lasted for a week.

1880—September 9, General U. S. Grant visited Syracuse.

1882—September 21, Grover Cleveland was nominated for Governor.

1884—September 24, James G. Blaine visited Syracuse.

1887—The village of Danforth united with Syracuse.

1888—The State Fair was permanently located in Syracuse

May 8, the new City Hall law was signed.

1889—May 15, the Skaneateles water act became a law.

June 4, a special election was held at which it was voted to bond the city for water works.

1890—October 16, the Leland Hotel was burned.

1892—In March a great snow blockade occurred.

April 30, the new City Hall was opened.

May 31, the May convention of the Cleveland Democrats, "Anti-Snappers" was held.

1894—June 6-7, the celebration of Onondaga County Centennial was held.

1895—The Law College of Syracuse University was opened.

## Climatic and Geographical Conditions

Climate and geographical conditions had much to do with the early settlements in this region on the hills north, south and east of the present site of Syracuse. The intersection of natural Indian trails north and south, east and west, through the "Long House of the Iroquois," determined the location of fur trading stations; while the beautiful surroundings, fertile soil and plentiful water supply tempted settlers

to locate and make the trading post the nuclei of permanent villages.

Onondaga Hollow and Onondaga Hill at the south of the city, were early settled and might have become the seats of considerable village communities, had not later developments in canal and road building, (particularly railroad building), made the present location of the city inevitable.

The salt springs made Salina. The geological conformation of our locality is responsible for this circumstance. The great "Iroquois Lake" of prehistoric times, left the great level beach plain, which determined the location of the Erie canal and the two railroads which have pierced their way through the "gateway of the West" at Schenectady on their way to the frontier. Further on in the book, the importance of the Erie canal to the development of our city will be fully discussed.

The long level between Utica and Syracuse is one of the marvels of the engineering world—not a lock in sixty miles. This same level which made the work of the surveyors easy in determining the path for the canal and railroads, made much of what is now Syracuse, little more than a miasmic swamp. The history of Syracuse as a village, shows that local pride and patriotism, as well as the desire for gain, had much to do with the draining and filling of these old swamps. One of our recent buildings is built on piles sunk fifty feet through the old swamp muck. These old Swamp levels have made ideal grades for the business portion of our city, while the surrounding hills have gradually been seized by the advancing population and turned into beautiful residence districts. But the hills give no finer foundation than the well drained and thoroughly conquered swamp land of a century ago.

## Historical Places in the Vicinity

### The Origin and Growth of Pompey

The largest of the Onondaga Indian villages was situated on what is now known as Lot 9, Pompey, and is some two miles south of Manlius. Beauchamp says, "Everywhere there are traces of the French missions of the Seventeenth Century and a vast amount of metallic work has been carried away, as well as trinkets of all kinds." Not less than twelve burial grounds are described by Clark & Beauchamp, in this vicinity, each having considerable interest. All of these things and much more of early accessible history go to make up the conditions which existed here in the last quarter of the 18th century when the New England emigrants came into the Onondaga Valley and settled upon the heights of Pompey and Otisco.

The first settlers shunned the deeper and darker valleys where the

luxurious and excessive vegetation was fraught with disease and death and placed their homes upon the hilltops, where they had air and light and an outlook over the land covered as by a great ocean of green and waving foliage.

Pompey was originally Township 16 of the Military Tract and consisted of 100 lots, which were later reduced to 68. The pioneers worked hard and were rewarded with simple food and scanty clothing and, for these, they thanked God and were happy. At an early day, only those who were able to put up comfortable homes could entertain travelers, hence the inn-keepers were among the leading men, and the inns were the places where men of all classes—lawyers, doctors, clergymen and business men—met, and discussed the affairs of the town and nation.

Pompey led in educational enterprises. The early teachers were from New England and were imbued with the spirit of that region. The Pompey Academy, established in 1811, gave to the town a fine literary reputation. The first building of the academy was commenced in 1803 by William Lathrop and completed in 1806. There was great difficulty in raising money to complete the structures, but in 1810 enough was raised to finish payment on the buildings. Final steps were taken in February, 1811, for the incorporation of a school.

The industrial interests developed rapidly. Grist and saw mills were situated on favorable sites.

Pompey Hill was for years one of the most prominent places in Onondaga County. It was noted for the wealth and refinement of its people and the educational features it enjoyed. It was the center of statesmanship, law and literature. Pompey is a widely recognized mother of public men, who have left their impress upon the affairs of the State and Nation.

### **Fort Brewerton**

This old fortification is accounted as one of the most interesting historical places in Central New York. It is located on the eastern shore of the Oneida River, just across from the present village of Brewerton. The fort was erected by the British in 1758 as a defense against French invasions of the Mohawk valley. The fort was named after the British officer, Captain Brewerton, who commanded several frontier stations. In 1795 a block house was erected near the fort. Fort Brewerton was never besieged, nor was any battle fought there, nevertheless it was deemed as a valuable defense in the line of fortifications extending from Oswego to the Mohawk valley.

Old settlers relate that when the fort was dismantled the cannon were drawn into the swamp to the south and buried, but diligent search has failed to reveal the missing ordnance. Until about 1850 the old fort was in excellent state of preservation; then it was plowed over, but since has been carefully preserved in its original outlines. The block house long ago disappeared. In a sand hill nearby many

human remains have been unearthed. Baldwin's Island, now known as Iroquois Island, has possessed a great interest from the large number of relics found there. In this respect the shores of the river for several miles have been wonderfully productive of Indian curiosities.

### **Ancient Fortifications Near Green Point**

The eastern shores of Onondaga Lake between the present villages of Salina and Liverpool are very interesting in their ancient remains.

The mission house, church and fortifications at the Jesuit wells are the best known. This fort was probably built by Frontenac at the time of his invasion in 1696.

In 1797, James Geddes acting as deputy surveyor, while laying out the salt lands, found traces of an old stockade which he surveyed and mapped. It was near a fine spring of water and situated in a pleasant locality on a commanding location and was evidently made by skilled engineers. All traces of the earthworks disappeared at least 75 years ago, but the locality has been prolific in relics, brass kettles, gun barrels, musket balls and hatchets.

### **Johnson's Fort in the Valley**

On Webster's mile square, in 1756, Sir William Johnson built a stockade, the remains of which were left when the valley was settled in 1768. The graded way of fieldstone from the terrace still exists and is called the Military Road. Traces of the fireplaces of the block-house are well remembered by living persons. Two Onondaga villages further up the valley were burned by Van Schoick's expedition in 1779. Prehistoric hamlets are noted in various adjacent localities and some interesting relics have been unearthed. The stockade on lot 3, Lafayette, was burned by Frontenac's expedition in 1696.

## **The Earliest Settlement In Syracuse**

In the center of our great Empire State, is a small and narrow valley known as the Onondaga. It extends north and south between two long hills, and, as the southern end is somewhat higher than the northern, there is a small creek, called Onondaga Creek, that flows northward and empties into Onondaga Lake at the northern extremity of this valley. In the eighteenth century this region was the home of the Onondaga Indians, the historic leaders of the Iroquois. It was here that the chiefs of the six nations assembled for all their councils, camp fires, and war dances. The streams were filled with salmon and trout and the ground in certain places was dotted with salt springs, the brine of which was used by the Indians as a medicine. Part of the present site of the city of Syracuse was then a dark and almost impenetrable swamp. The entire valley was covered by a dense forest and was a favorite resort for wolves, bears, wildcats, etc.

In 1784, Ephraim Webster, an enterprising young fur trader, who had just distinguished himself for three years as captain under Washington, set out for the country of the Onondagas. He traveled by way of an old waterway, up the Mohawk to Fort Stanwix, where a short portage was made to Wood Creek, thence by way of Oneida Lake, Seneca River, and Onondaga Lake. He built a trading post on the eastern bank of the creek where it empties into the lake. He became a great friend of the Indians and was granted about a square mile of land in that region. In three weeks' time he had such a stock of furs and other things that he employed several Onondaga Indians to help in taking them to Albany. He continued his trading here for several years and prospered.

In 1800, Calvin Jackson built a small log house near the present site of the City Hall. In that dwelling was born Albion Jackson, probably the first white child born in the vicinity of Syracuse. At this time there were fifty-eight inhabitants of the town of "Salina," a new settlement north of Syracuse. These people were engaged mostly in manufacturing salt.

There was also a town just south of the city. In 1788, Asa Danforth and a few friends had migrated from Massachusetts and settled at Onondaga Valley. In 1803 there were eight frame houses and several log cabins at this place. It also had an established postoffice and a court to its credit. A year later the state made a treaty with the Onondagas at Fort Stanwix and acquired the title to the forest between the two settlements.

In the same year the state authorized the Surveyor-General to sell two hundred fifty acres, of what is now the business section of Syracuse, to Mr. Abram Walton with the stipulation that he build a mill and a public house on the land. The proceeds of the sale, \$6,500, were to be used to build the Genesee turnpike in this county. Mr. Walton immediately built the first mill in Syracuse, where the Technical High School now stands. He laid out part of his land into village lots and sold to Henry Bogardus a half acre for \$300. The contract compelled Mr. Bogardus to build a tavern on his land and this he did on the site of the present Empire House. The place soon became known as "Bogardus Corners" and the tavern was called "South Salina Hotel." Here the old stage coach stopped on its trip between Albany and Buffalo.

The Erie canal project had been under discussion since the early part of 1800. In a few years it became a political issue and in 1807 Joshua Forman, an enterprising lawyer of Onondaga Valley, was elected to the State Assembly on the canal ticket. He became one of the greatest advocates for the building of this waterway and tried to have it put through his home village, but the people at the Valley did not want it. He went to Salina and the people there were pessimistic about its ever being a reality. So Mr. Forman decided it must go be-

tween the two towns. He formed a company which started to forward the settlement of the swamp. Previous to this time the locality had been very unhealthful and many inhabitants had suffered severely from sickness and some had died. The company obtained an appropriation from the State Legislature and deepened and widened the outlet of the lake. This lowered the level of the lake and thereby took all the water out of the swamp. He himself built a little white house where the Wieting Block now stands, and transformed the land into a beautiful grove of trees and flowers. The first celebration of the Fourth of July in this county took place in this grove.

## The Erie Canal and Syracuse

To the Erie Canal may be given the credit for the existence and present status of Syracuse. It was the canal which decided that the great swamp was to be converted into a progressive and enterprising hamlet and finally a great city.

Judge Forman was instrumental in obtaining the passage of the bill by the State Legislature appropriating funds for the excavation. When the building of the canal was almost a certainty Judge Forman organized a company, "Forman, Wilson & Co., which purchased the Walton Tract at a cost of \$9,000. During the next few years, the Judge did all within his power to recommend Syracuse, although the only features of the place were a few houses beside the great swamp.

On April 20, 1820, the first packet boat on the canal arrived at the town of Lodi (now a part of Syracuse.) The boat was a small craft named the "Montezuma." This notable event had been extensively advertised and the inhabitants for miles around had gathered on the banks of the canal, eager to witness the great spectacle of a boat sailing in the "Big Ditch." The majority of the crowd was composed of skeptics who thought the whole project an impossibility. After hours of waiting many more were inclined to agree with this class. The patience of the hopeful ones was rewarded when suddenly came the cry, "There she comes!" The boat was towed by a team of spirited horses, which passed the crowd on a fast trot. The sight evoked great enthusiasm and applause from the excited crowd. This successful trip silenced all doubters and the hopes of its promotors were realized.

This event opened a new era in the history of Syracuse. Men of means were attracted here and the hamlet began to develop. Storage and shipping houses, mills, and other evidences of industry were erected. The great salt deposits here also attracted many. The forest was soon replaced in large areas by houses, taverns and other essential buildings. The growth of the town was hindered considerably by the presence of the dangerous infectious swamp, but in 1821,

after a careful survey, it was thought that it was possible to drain this swamp by widening the outlet. The experiment was a pronounced success, and removed a deadly menace. After the reclamation, the growth of Syracuse was rapid. The canal was the link which connected Syracuse with the West and the ocean.

The Erie canal is still a significant factor in the commerce of Syracuse, and with the completion of the new Barge canal, we may expect another epoch in Syracuse history and development.

## Disasters in Syracuse

### Cholera Epidemic

In the year 1832, the first case of cholera in America occurred at Montreal.

As soon as the news became known in Syracuse that the disease was in America, every precaution was taken. Every incoming boat was examined before the passengers were allowed to land. The city was divided into wards with a health officer at the head of each ward. His duty was to superintend the cleaning of yards and streets, using lime where it was necessary.

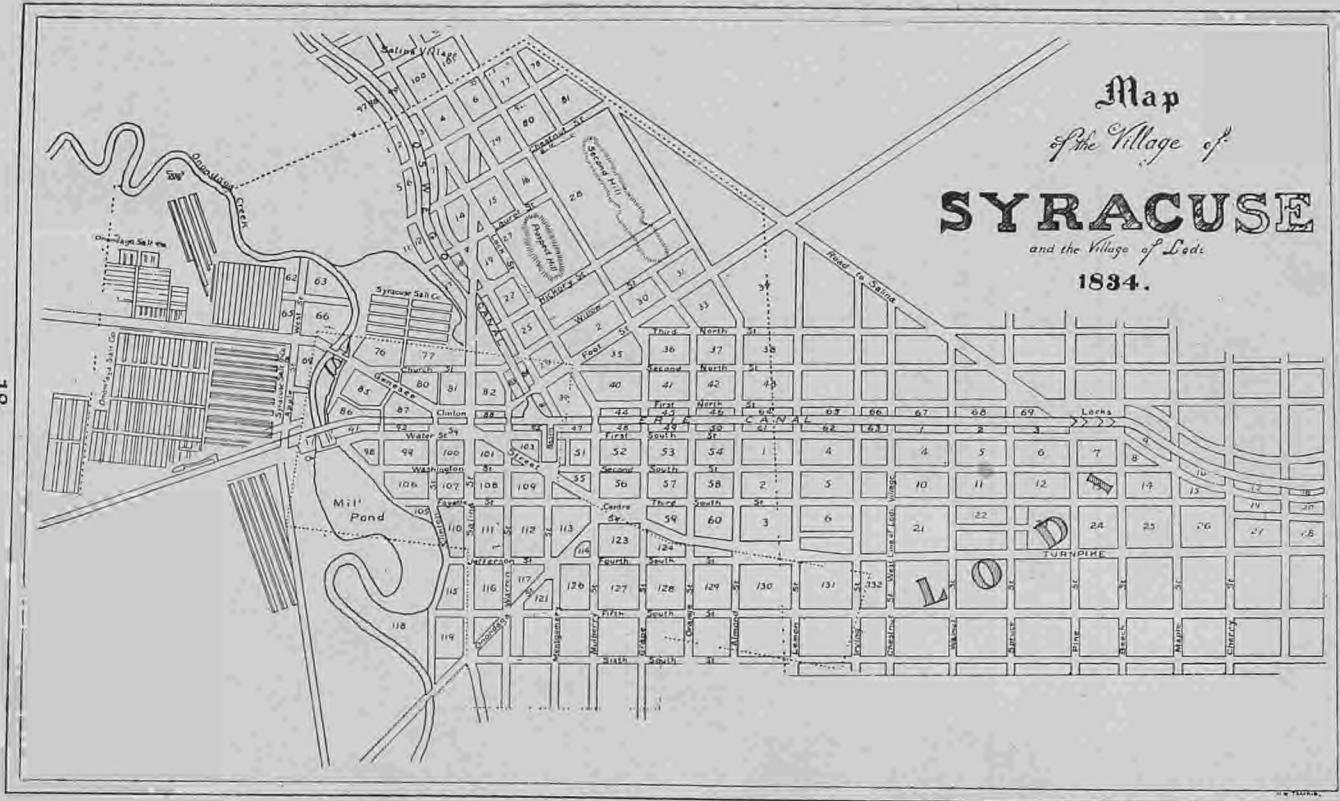
In spite of all precautions, however, the disease invaded the community. The first case in Syracuse was on July 17, 1832. The victim was a laborer, who died the same day that he was afflicted. After this case, the disease spread rapidly. Most of the influential men of the town were victims of the malady, among them being Dr. Jonathan Day, Dr. Wm. Kirkland, and Rev. N. J. Gilbert. The total number is estimated at two hundred and fifty in the towns of Salina and Syracuse.

### Powder Explosion

On the night of Aug. 20, 1841, occurred the ever memorable gun powder explosion, which killed 26 citizens and injured over sixty others.

About 9:30 P. M., a fire of unknown origin started in a joiner's shop on the tow path of the Oswego Canal, almost in the rear of the County Clerk's Office. The fire soon enveloped the whole building and soon afterward the twenty-six kegs of powder which were stored there exploded with tremendous force and completely demolished the building and checked the fire.

The night air was filled with shrieks and groans of the injured and dying. When lanterns were brought, the appalling results of the explosion were seen and the cries of relatives and friends mingled with those of the victims. Many had been swept into the canal and drowned.



Fortunately the force of the explosion was in a southeasterly direction, across the canal, a locality which was not overcrowded with people. A house on the opposite bank of the canal was almost torn from its foundation. Glass was broken in houses one hundred yards distant. The report was heard as far away as Fulton, a distance of twenty-six miles.

In some towns around Syracuse it was thought to be an earthquake.

The victims were removed as soon as possible and services were held in all the churches, while all the city was in mourning.

### **Central Baptist Church Disaster**

The church parlors of the Central Baptist Church presented a lively scene on the night of June 23, 1874. It was the music festival held for the children and the church was crowded.

The first intimation of danger was a slight trembling of the floor. Few heeded this warning. A few moments passed and suddenly a terrible crash was heard. This was accompanied by the collapse of the floor and ceiling. Heavy timbers, stifling plaster dust, broken furniture, debris, and people were all hurled downward in one confused mass.

There was a momentary silence and then shrieks of terror and agony, from young and old alike, arose in one pitiable chorus from the struggling throng.

The firemen and police rendered great assistance almost immediately. Everything possible was done to assist the unfortunates, it being daylight before all were removed from the debris. Fifteen deaths occurred as a result of the disaster.

### **Smallpox Epidemic**

Syracuse was destined to suffer severely in the summer and fall of 1875 from the ravages of smallpox and the disease attracted sufficient attention in August to demand a public meeting to prevent an epidemic. Either in anticipation of the disease or for the general reason that there had been mild visitations of it in previous years, the Common Council on January 4th, directed the clerk to advertise for a city pest house. This action led to the purchase of eight acres of land on Beech Street and the erection in August of the hospital with necessary outbuildings for patients afflicted with the contagious disease.

Meanwhile, in spite of all the efforts the disease spread, forty cases being reported about the first of September. On the sixth there were six burials from the scourge; up to that date a total of 128 cases had been reported, with 36 deaths. The disease progressed without very much contagion until late in the autumn.

The press boldly asserted that it was on the wane and confidence was restored as early as October 1st. On the 8th of the same month

a manifesto from the leading business men was issued, concluding that the disease was about stamped out and that there was no danger to visitors. The fact is that there were 52 cases on the first of November and the disease was not eradicated until the first of the year.

On the 10th of November the city physicians reported that there had been 810 cases and 182 deaths, which number was increased after that date. Business suffered seriously on account of the loss of country trade and the epidemic cost the city more than \$60,000 loss directly and a vastly larger sum indirectly. The hospital grounds cost about \$12,000.

### **Leland Hotel Fire**

(As told by Chief J. P. Quigley.)

The Leland Hotel was located where the New York Central station now stands.

The fire which destroyed the hotel occurred on October 16, 1890. Chief Quigley remembers it as the most terrible fire he has seen during his service in the Fire Department. The place was known to be a fire-trap. The fire, which was caused by electric wires short-circuiting, was discovered by Lewis Leland, a cousin of the proprietor.

Intimately connected with the fire were Barney Harvey and Henry Rucker. The former entered the flaming building and rescued several who had been entrapped by the smoke and flames. Henry Rucker, the elevator boy, "stuck to his post" and ran his elevator as long as it was possible to do so.

### **Webster's Speech**

Among the noted visitors to Syracuse was Daniel Webster. His reputation as an orator was gained during the great abolition agitation.

Syracuse contained many anti-slavery sympathizers, but there were also a number of "friends of the Union," who asked Webster to speak here on the subject of the Fugitive Slave Law. He arrived on the ninth of June and was escorted to the Courier Building, from the balcony of which he was to speak.

A large crowd had gathered to hear him. His speech was very satisfactory to the "Unionists," but entirely the reverse was its effect on the abolitionists. In fiery language he condemned as traitors all those who refused to enforce the Fugitive Slave Law. He accused them of disobeying the law and ranking their judgment superior to the Constitution. He charged them not only to yield up all slaves, but to punish those guilty in the treasonable act of resisting its execution.

In conclusion Mr. Webster said that he was a Northerner and irreconcilable to human slavery, but since the Constitution contained the Fugitive Slave Law, he felt in duty bound to obey it. He asked them the question, "Will you do justice to the Southern States, that they may have no pretext for leaving the Union, and will you sustain the Union?" His closing remarks were, "Those persons in this city who mean to oppose the fugitive slave law are **traitors!** **traitors!** This law ought to be obeyed and it will be enforced and in the midst of the next antislavery convention, if there shall be any occasion so enforce it."

This speech aroused in the hearts of the abolitionists an insatiable desire to demonstrate their disregard for the Fugitive Slave Law. This desire was fully gratified by the incident of the "Jerry Rescue."

## The Jerry Rescue

### Eye Witness

The following account was obtained by Misses Wilhelmina Butler and Ethel Du Bois from colored people who were witnesses of the famous event of the Jerry Rescue:

Jerry McHenry was a supposed slave, belonging to Mr. Reynolds of Missouri. He was an athletic mulatto, who had been living in Syracuse for a number of years, working quite expertly as a cooper.

In 1851, his former master had in some way discovered Jerry's whereabouts and on the first of October, 1851, Jerry was arrested and taken to the Commissioner's office and tried before the District Attorney. The bell of the Congregational Church, then located on Genesee Street, between Warren and Montgomery Streets, (where Convention Block now stands), gave notice of Jerry's arrest.

His trial was a one-sided process, in which the agent of the

### Secondary Authority

Daniel Webster's fiery speech was instrumental in bringing on the Jerry Rescue, which made Syracuse famous as a station on the "Underground Railway."

Jerry was a slave who had escaped from his master a number of years prior to his arrest. He had made his way north and had settled in the town of Salina, plying his trade as a cooper. He was well known in the town and there were few who would have seen harm done to him.

In October, 1851, an officer from the South quietly entered the town and planned to arrest Jerry, who was ignorant of this fact, as well as his friends. The latter were surprised when one day, about dusk, Jerry was arrested and quickly dispatched to the Collins Block (now known as the "Jerry Rescue Building.") He was given a speedy trial by the Federal Court, only the agent being permitted to testify. Jerry,

#### Eye Witness—Continued

claimant alone testified that the prisoner was an escaped slave, belonging to Mr. Reynolds of Missouri. The accused was not allowed to defend his own case, nor to refute the testimony of the agent, however false that might be.

While the trial was in progress, Jerry, who was not closely guarded, quietly slipped out of the room under the guidance of a young man, and in a moment was in the street below.

The crowd approved his action and made way for him, but as no means had been provided to facilitate his escape he was entirely dependent on his ability as a runner.

He had run a half mile before the police and the agent overtook him, Jerry resisted very strenuously, but was finally subdued. With two policemen sitting on him, Jerry, bruised and bleeding, was brought back in a cart to a small back room by the police officers and was securely guarded.

The citizens of Syracuse were very indignant, to such an extent that they boldly made threats to release Jerry. Jerry meanwhile was also enraged. Mr. May, an influential citizen was asked to counsel with him and pacify him.

It was sometime before Jerry could compose himself, however, and he asked Mr. May, "Would you be quiet with these things on you," indicating the shackles and handcuffs. Mr. May assured him that he would soon be rescued and that he must be calm.

A party of twenty had met at Dr. Hoyt's office to plan the rescue

#### Secondary Authority—Continued

manacled and shackled, was brought into the room and his appearance in this humiliating manner aroused the ire of all the spectators, who had gathered.

While the trial was in progress some one overturned the lamps and the room was in complete darkness. Taking advantage of the confusion, several men seized Jerry and deported him out of the building. They ran down the bog of what is now Clinton Street, pursued by the sheriff. As Jerry was encumbered by the shackles, rapid progress was impossible and finally numbers had to yield to the law.

Jerry was placed in a cart and, with two policemen upon him, he was brought to the Court House.

His rescue was effected that night by twenty men, who battered the doors and windows of his prison and made off with Jerry.

Enraged at his failure to recapture the slave, the sheriff immediately placed the perpetrators under arrest. Among this number were the most prominent men in the town. Such men as Rev. Samuel May, Gerrit Smith, and Moses Summers, editor of the "Standard." A jury could not be drafted to try them.

Public indignation was roused and affairs came to such a crisis that Mayor Prendergast called out the militia to prevent a serious riot. This act incensed the citizens more than any measures which had been taken in the case.

#### Eye Witness—Continued

of Jerry. It was decided that a bold, skillful driver should be stationed not far off with a strong buggy and a team of the fleetest horses obtainable, to receive Jerry. He was instructed to drive about the city and, when he had outdistanced the persons to return to a certain point in the center of the city where two men would be waiting to rescue Jerry.

Accordingly, at a given signal, the doors and windows of the police office were shattered and the rescuers rushed in, seized Jerry, and placed him in the buggy. About nine o'clock that night Jerry was delivered by the driver to Mr. Jason S. Hoyt and Mr. J. Davis. These two men guided Jerry up Chestnut Street (now Crouse Avenue) to a blacksmith shop, where Mrs. Susan L. Watson and another lady relieved him of his shackles.

For a number of days there were only a few people who knew where Jerry was, many thinking him on the way to Canada.

The next Sunday evening a covered wagon was seen standing near the door of Mr. Davis' house. Mr. Davis and Mr. Hoyt appeared, and assisted an apparently infirm man into a wagon and drove off at a rapid rate.

Suspicion was aroused and several "patriots" set off in pursuit of the "traitors." They followed for eight or ten miles and abandoned the pursuit. Jerry was taken about twenty miles to the home of a Quaker in the town of Mexico.

After being concealed there sev-

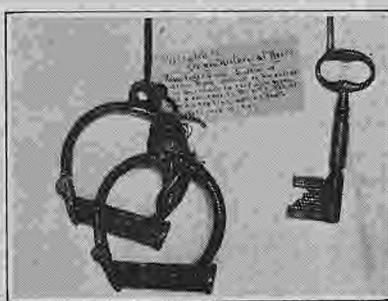
#### Secondary Authority—Continued

Meanwhile Jerry had been at the home of Rev. Samuel J. May on the corner of Mulberry (now State) and Genesee Streets. He was concealed there for two nights and was then given over to the care of Mrs. Susan Watson, a colored lady residing on Railroad Avenue. Here his shackles were stricken off and Jerry was free from any physical encumbrances.

Plans were then made for his escape, as there was still a vigorous search being made for Jerry.

Early one morning, he was hidden in a butcher's wagon and was driven over the old Oswego road to Lake Ontario. Here he boarded a schooner, bade a grateful farewell to his benefactors, and was soon on his journey to freedom. He arrived safely at St. Catharines a free man.

Syracusans communicated with him through the "underground railway," and it was with great sorrow that they learned of his death, four years later.



Shackles and Key to Jerry's Cell

This event brought fame to Syracuse and is only one of the

**Eye Witness—Continued**

eral days, he was placed upon a schooner with a friendly captain who took him to Kingston. He soon opened a cooper's shop there and maintained it until his death four years later.

The key to Jerry's cell and the shackles are now in the possession of the Historical Society, (see illustration.) Below are transcripts of the original orders issued in connection with the case.

Sheriff's Office,  
Onondaga County,  
Syracuse, Oct. 1, 1851.

To the Commandant of the Syracuse Corps (sic.)

You are forthwith required to have your company armed and equipped (sic.) and ready for duty and at my office to aid in the

**Secondary Authority—Continued**

examples of deeds parallel to this one, which occurred constantly throughout the North.

(The above account was taken from secondary authority, and the report of eye witnesses is placed opposite for comparison.)

keeping of peace and assist in executing the law.

Yours, V. C.,  
WM. B. GARDNER,  
Sheriff.

Lieut. Chandler,

Sir:—The sheriff and I have consulted and we think the service of the military will not be needed this evening.

Very resp.,  
O. VANDENBERGH,  
Col. 51st Regt.

Oct. 1, 1851.

To Lieut. Chandler,

The Citizen's Corps are (sic) requested to disband immediately.

O. VANDENBERGH,  
Oct. 1, 1851. Col. 51st Regt.

## Special Events in Syracuse & Onondaga Co.

During the growth of Syracuse, many events occurred which, although not generally known, are no less interesting and important. Onondaga County contributed her share of troops in the Revolutionary War, and were the stories of the deeds of these unknown heroes known, they would afford great interest, but unfortunately there are no records.

It was customary in early years for the veterans to participate in Independence Day celebrations and other public demonstrations

of patriotism. The first celebration of the anniversary of American Independence held in Syracuse was on Monday the 5th of July, 1824. About thirty veterans took part in the ceremonies and added materially to the day's festivities. These were only a small percentage of the veterans who were residing in the county at that time. In the year (1824) there were one hundred and twelve Revolutionary soldiers drawing pensions in Onondaga County.

During the great slavery agitation, preceding the Civil War, the system called the "Underground Railway" was established. Syracuse was one of the stations on the lengthy list. The inhabitants at first abhorred the idea of harboring runaway slaves, but soon became the warmest supporters of the "system."

Two colored clergymen of Syracuse were the heads of the movement here. The co-operation of the leading bankers and business men was readily secured. Among the few that complained were the hotel men, who asserted that Southern gentlemen refused to stop here, because of the danger that their slaves might be easily induced to leave them.

Some of the slaves rescued by the "system" preferred living in Syracuse to crossing into Canada. The directory of 1852 gives the names of ninety-two negro residents.

The passage of the Fugitive Slave Law in 1850 caused great indignation throughout the North, Syracuse asserted her anger by holding an "indignation meeting" at the City Hall. The hall was crowded and the people passed a set of thirteen resolutions referring to the Fugitive Slave Law as "a most flagrant outrage upon the inalienable

rights of man and a daring assault upon the palladium of American liberty."

At the next meeting a signed petition was sent to Congress.

Syracuse gained a widespread reputation as an abolition center. In May, 1851, the "American Anti-Slavery Society" met at Syracuse, among those present being William Lloyd Garrison, Gerrit Smith, Frederic Douglass, Parker Pittsburg, Abby Kelly, Foster and Samuel May. Mr. Garrison's opening remarks showed the great opposition to the society in New York City. His words were, "This Society has heretofore met in New York, but we are not permitted by a power that is greater than liberty in our land to hold the anniversary in that city this year, as neither a meeting house nor a hall could be obtained. If driving this Society from New York has covered that city with historical infamy, the receiving of it in Syracuse will cover this city with historical renown." Thereafter Syracuse was the rendezvous of many Anti-Slavery conventions.

On April 22, 1861, after the bombardment of Fort Sumter, a mass meeting was held and \$10,000 was appropriated for the families of volunteers.

## Syracuse in the Civil War

Syracuse sent in all five regiments of infantry (12th, 101st, 122nd, 149th, 185th), nine companies of the 15th Cavalry, Company B of the Light Artillery, and a company of Zouaves commanded by John G. Butler, aggregating in all over ten thousand volunteers.

The first to be sent to the front were Butler's Zouaves, who left the city immediately after the fall of Sumter, and were soon followed by Jenney's command, Battery B, 1st Light Artillery. The Zouaves were conspicuous in the battles of Big Bethel, Ft. Wagner, Bermuda Hundreds, Petersburg, Ft. Gilmer, Chapin's Farm, Ft. Fischer, and Wilmington, N. C.

The artillery participated in the battles of Fair Oaks, Malvern Hill, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Spotsylvania, Petersburg, and Hatcher's Run.

The next regiment to leave was the gallant "Twelfth," under Col. E. L. Walrath, later under Col. Weeks, which entrained on May 2, 1861. This regiment rendered invaluable service at the battles on the Peninsula. It was especially prominent in the siege of Yorktown, and the battles of Malvern Hill, 2nd Bull Run, and Fredericksburg.

On Feb. 17, 1862, the second regiment from Syracuse left for

Hancock, N. Y., and was there absorbed into the 101st N. Y. Vols., and soon left for the front. This regiment lost so many men in the Peninsula campaign that it was in turn absorbed by the 37th N. Y. Vols. in October. They also were in the battles of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, and Petersburg.

In August of 1862, the 122nd Regiment was mustered in and started for New York the 31st. This regiment was led by Col. Silas Titus. All the brigade and division commanders testified as to the unsurpassed gallantry of the 122nd at the battles of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Rappahanock Station, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Cedar Creek, especially at Chancellorsville. The regiment lost many of their most valuable officers, besides, a large percentage of men. Such men as Lieut. Col. Augustus W. Dwight, Lieut. Theodore Poole, Maj. Joshua B. Davis, and Capt. Morris Church and Horace Walpole served in this regiment.

Recruiting was still carried on and by the 18th of September the 149th Regiment was ready to go to the front. Col. Henry A. Barnum commanded it. Col. Barnum was wounded at Malvern Hill and Lookout Mountain, and was promoted in 1865 to Brig. Gen. for conspicuous gallantry. The 149th

equalled the reputations of its predecessors from Syracuse and did gallant service at Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, Chattanooga, Gettysburg, and in Sherman's great campaign around Atlanta.

The last full regiment from Syracuse, the 185th, left for the war Sept. 23, 1864, commanded by Col. Edwin S. Jenney, who had recruited Battery B at the beginning of the war. The regiment fought in a battle around Petersburg sustaining a slight loss. One of the deeds was the destruction of the Weldon Railroad, which connected Petersburg with the Confederate base of supplies

at Weldon. In the second battle of Hatcher's Run the 185th sustained severe losses. It also fought in the battles of Five Forks and Petersburg, the attack on Fort Steadman, and was present at the surrender at Appomattox. Though one of the later regiments, the 185th saw much service and gained an enviable record.

To enumerate the deeds of these brave regiments would require a larger volume than the present one, but it is sufficient to say that no other city in New York State sent a more gallant collection of men than those who left our city during the War of the Rebellion, many of them never to return.

### **Military Roll of Honor of Syracuse High School 1861-1865**

James A. Allis—Maj. 4th N. Y. Prov. Cav. Vols.	Foster B. Gilbert—Asst. Paymaster, U. S. Navy.
William P. Burdick—1st Lt. 102d N. Y. Inft. Vols.	George H. Gilbert—Capt. 122d N. Y. Inft. Vols.
H. Wadsworth Clarke—Capt. 3d N. Y. Light Art. Vols.	William F. Hubbard—149th Inft. Vols. Chaplain U. S. A.
Charles W. Barnes—Battery "D" 185th N. Y. Inft. Vols.	Charles M. Kinne—Col. 100 2nd Mass. Cav. and Capt. and A. A. G., U. S. A.
George Knapp Collins—Capt. 149th N. Y. Inft. Vols.	Theodore Y. Kinne—Asst. Surg. 184th N. Y. Inft. Vols.
Joseph A. Davis—2d 149th N. Y. Lt. Inft. Vols.	Edward Leonard—Hos. Steward, 3d N. Y. Inft. Vols.
Thomas W. Durston—Q. M. Sergt. 15th N. Y. Inft. Vols.	Maurice Leyden—Major 4th Prov. N. Y. Cav. Vols.
Frank B. Garrett—Capt. U. S. Colored Cav. Vols.	Alexander McKinstry—Captain 149th N. Y. Inft. Vols.
Charles H. George—1st 76th N. Y. Lt. Inft. Vols.	James S. McVey—1st Lt. 3d N. Y. Art. and Staff Maj., Gen'l John J. Pack.
Elisha B. George—Sergt. Major 149th N. Y. Inft. Vols.	Morton L. Marks, Maj. 122 N. Y. Inft. Vols.
Byron Gilbert—1st Sergt. Co. "E" 12th N. Y. Inft. Vols.	

Thomas Merriam—Maj. 149th N. Y. Inft. Vols.

Charles H. Merrick—Sergt. Battery "F" 3d N. Y. Light Art. Vols.

Smith Norway—1st Sergt. 112th N. Y. Inft. Vols.

Herbert D. Peck—Capt. 22d N. Y. Cav. Vols.

John A. Prindle—Capt. 7th Vermont Inft. Vols. and A. A. G. Rossiter W. Raymond — Capt. Staff Major Gen'l John C. Freemont.

Joseph Seymour, Jr.—2nd 149th N. Y. Lt. Inft. Vols.

Teall O. Seymour—Q. M. Sergt. 3d N. Y. Inft. Vols.

Chas. F. Spear—122d N. Y. Inft. Vols.

Samuel S. Sumner—Capt. 5th Cav. U. S. and Maj. Gen'l U. S. A.

Osgood V. Tracy—Col. 122d N. Y. Lt. Inft. Vols.

William G. Tracy—Maj. U. S. Vols., Staff Maj. Gen'l H. W. Sloeum.

George G. Truair—Maj. 149th N. Y. Inft. Vols.

John F. Wheeler—1st 149th N. Y. Lt. Inft. Vols.

Will W. Wheeler—Sergt. Co. "H" 16th Heavy Art. Vols.

Andrew W. Wilkin—Major 122d N. Y. Inft. Vols.

Augustine H. Williams — Corp. 12th N. Y. Inft Vols.

## Land Marks In and Around Syracuse

Long before the advent of present civilization in Onondaga, there was an advanced age of civilization. However, a few landmarks remain to remind us of the time when this section of the country was covered with wigwams belonging to the Red Men.

One of the landmarks is the Pinnacle, a cone-shaped hill about half way between Elmwood and Onondaga Valley. From its summit the Indians sent messages by signal fires to the top of the other hill across the valley, which in turn sent signals to what is now the Indian Reservation. At present, the hill is being dug away for the fine sand and gravel found in it.

Two distinct landmarks are lo-

cated at Onondaga Hill, the Presbyterian Church, erected in 1818, and nearer the city on the same road, two graves. Both men who lie buried there were stationed at and died in Onondaga Valley, one a captain, the other an unknown private.

At Onondaga Valley stands the Academy which was built in 1815, repaired in 1853 and again in 1890. Another building with a long and interesting history is the hotel at Elmwood.

In 1800 Nicholas Michels built a blast furnace on the present site of Morris' greenhouses. At the same time he built a long, low building across the street for storing the castings. This building was one and one-half stories high

and flaming red in color. On one door post was carved a spread eagle over a shield and beneath it were the words "Built in 1800." During the war of 1812, Michaels cast shot for the store of supplies at the State Arsenal. Michaels afterwards sold the property to one Jerathmiel Hunt and it has since passed from hand to hand. Lemuel Clift used it as a residence for ten years and then sold it to Russell Eastman. Very little of the original remains.

The State Arsenal at Onondaga Valley was in the early part of its existence a one and one-half story building and stood gray and imposing upon a side hill with two



cannons side by side upon the roof indicating its use. Now the remains consist of two walls and the diagonal half of the third. Portions of the decayed beams extend from their former position and yet those two walls are silent and forbidding.

One of the oldest houses in Syracuse is at the corner of Oak and Robinson Streets. This house was occupied by E. P. Bates as his residence for nearly twenty-five years. The construction is unique. It has no upright timbers, and the

floor joists are made of small logs hewn to a face on the top side only. The upright walls are made of two inch planks covered with boards on the outside and plastered on the inside. The original building was of two rooms, nine by fifteen feet and about seven feet high. The house was built as a farm house in a large apple orchard and overlooks a large portion of the city.

The Indians were of course the first ones who knew the present location and neighborhood of Syracuse. After them, the white men began to settle here—one at a time, and we find that a man named William Dean, in 1795 settled on the road to Salina which was a continuation of Clinton Street.

Ephriam Webster, another old settler, came about the time of Mr. Dean, and he had his camp where the Onondaga Creek flows into the lake, on or near the site of the proposed barge canal harbor. But from further investigation we come to the conclusion that there must have been others who were here before them, for we learn that the famous Chateau Oriand camped close to where Long Branch is now located. Also in the Oakwood Cemetery is a small but conspicuous antique stone which bears the inscription, "Benjamin Nukerck, died the 7th Dec., 1787, aged 37 years." This stone was found near the creek, but was removed to the cemetery, and it is believed that he was the first white man to have died in the present city limits.

In a log cabin where Genesee

and Montgomery Streets meet, Abiathar Jackson was born, December 28, 1800, and was the first white child born in this settlement. About this time there were quite a few settlers and land was being claimed, bought, and sold. Mr. H. Bogardus bought from Mr. Watson a one-half acre plot of land in 1805 for \$300 with the understanding that he must build a hotel on this ground. This hotel was built within two years, and its historic value comes from the fact that it was the first building lot sold in Syracuse. It was called the Empire House and stood on the present site of the Empire Building. About 1805, the first blacksmith and cooper shop was built on the present site of the Amos Hotel. In 1811, Cossett's Tavern was where the University Building now is.

The famous Syracuse House was built between 1820 and 1822, and stood where the Onondaga Bank Building now stands. Two years later the Coffee House was built, on the corner of Washington and Warren Streets, where the Vanderbilt Hotel now is. This old Coffee House stands at present on the corner of Jackson and Montgomery Streets. It is a two-story wooden building which is used on the ground floor for a grocery store and meat market. The Vanderbilt Hotel was built in 1868. Mr. Cook, the owner, named it after Commodore Vanderbilt, and its first guest was Charles Dickens, who stopped at this hotel, when he visited this city. The Syracuse House and the Coffee House were famous meeting places

for distinguished politicians, and high government officials, while on the road, would stop off at either one.

To guard against the Indians a block house was built in 1795 in front of the Salina Pump House, which was near the canal. Also a building which was built about 1820, by a Mr. Webb, was used, some say, as early as 1835 for a recruiting station. This structure was located on the south side of West Water Street between Clinton and Franklin Streets.

Some Indians say that in 1793 the last council of the Indians was held where the Onondaga Bank is now. Other councils were held on the Bashiable Block site. The water works' reservoir was the place where General Sullivan had a battle and defeated the Indians.

The large old fashioned wooden dwelling on the northwesterly corner of West Onondaga and West Streets, (now occupied by Mrs. George Everson), was once the center of the most fashionable society in this city, being the former residence of the first mayor of Syracuse, Harvey Baldwin. The land was sold March 9, 1839, by David S. Colvin to Horace White, a banker, for \$800. Mr. White built his residence on the property, but considered that it was too far out in the country and away from his office, so he sold it to one James Voorhees in 1841 for \$4,000. Mr. Voorhees sold the property to Harvey Baldwin for \$5,000 in 1844, where Mr. Baldwin continued to live until his death in 1863.

Another early landmark is the

old, dilapidated wooden building on the northwesterly corner of Madison and Montgomery Streets. It is the oldest ecclesiastical landmark now remaining in Syracuse. It was the first Episcopal as well as the first Catholic Church in the village of Syracuse; and it was the third building to be used exclusively for religious purposes. The old building was completed in 1827 for the St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church and in February, 1842, the edifice with all its fixtures was sold to the congregation of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church for \$600.

The city of Syracuse was first settled on the shores of Onondaga Lake and so we expect that some old buildings still remain in the northern part of the city. On the northwesterly corner of North Salina and Exchange Streets stands the old Alvord Building, which was erected in 1808 by Elisha Alvord and his brother Dioclesian. It is the first brick building erected within the present limits of Syracuse and one of the oldest landmarks in this part of the state. It was the strongest and most durable building in this city in 1894. Its walls are two feet thick up to the second story and eighteen inches above that to the roof. The bricks were made by David Marshall on the banks of Yellow Brook, near where it crosses South Salina Street, between Jefferson and Onondaga; the stones in the cellar were quarried in the line of what is now Center Street in the First Ward. The Alvord Brothers kept a hotel in this building until 1813 when

they dissolved partnership. The upper floor of the structure was used as a public ballroom for some years until it passed into other hands. It is now known as the Freeman Block.

On the corner of West Genesee and North Clinton streets is an interesting old building, part of which has been recently torn down in order to widen North Clinton Street. It was considered a very handsome building in the early days and was known as the Dana House having been built by Deacon Daniel Dana. Its correct name, however, was the City Boarding House, the whole upper part being used for a fashionable boarding and rooming house. It was erected in 1846.

When the Erie Canal was built in Syracuse many buildings were built along its banks for mercantile business. One of these is the weighlock house at the foot of Market Street on East Water Street. The house, a low, dingy-looking brick building was erected by the state for the enlargement of the canal, and the contract was given out in 1849. It stands to-day practically in the same condition as when erected for the purpose of weighing canal boats. Now, as the canal is a free highway this is not necessary so it is used for offices of officials and weighs boats only upon request of the people.

A picturesque old building located in the middle of Exchange Street, between North Salina and Park Streets, is the one now adorned by a sign which shows that it was once used as a brewery

by Dalton & Fleming. This building was erected close to the Oswego\* Canal, a short branch of which runs directly behind it. The brick block was erected in 1828 by Williams & Co., a mercantile firm, and the signs which now adorn the north side, facing the canal, show that at some time grape wine was manufactured there.

The old Salt Building on the southwestern corner of North Salina and Exchange Streets and occupied for many years by the superintendent of the Onondaga Salt Springs, is by far the most important landmark in the city of Syracuse; for it was in that building the State government exercised parental control over the salt industry to which the city owes its beginning and much of its prosperity; and from which a revenue that more than paid half the cost of building the Erie and Champlain Canals. The building was erected by the state government in 1828 when Exchange Street was opened.

In 1801, the Board of Supervisors—then composed of the wisest men in their respective towns, began to take measures to build a court house and jail for this county. Previous to raising the house, the people of the hill gathered together and made a "Bee" for the purpose of cutting away the trees to make room for the new building. In order to have the use of the Court House, a temporary floor and seats were put into it and the courts were held there until the year 1804. The Court House was completed in this year.

The jail was a wooden building—fifty feet square, two stories high, with a square pitched room four ways to the eaves. It was not painted either. The first story was appropriated for the jail and the dwelling of the janitor—a hall separating them from each other. The cells were constructed of heavy oak planks, fastened together with wrought spikes. This Court House was used until 1829.

Syracuse, having in 1825-26 grown to be the largest town in the county, the question of moving the county buildings to that place began to be agitated. In 1828, a law was granted, authorizing the Supervisors of the county to erect a Court House and Jail within the corporate village of Syracuse, so it was decided to build it midway between Syracuse and Salina. This was somewhat like the old building in structure, being fifty feet square, two stories high, with a hall and stairs in the center. The cells were of the strongest kind and were replaced in the next Court House in Clinton Square. The jail was abandoned in 1850, after the erection of the Penitentiary. This Court House was destroyed by fire on January 4, 1856, and then it was decided that the site of the Court House should be changed to Block 81 on the corner of Clinton Square and Clinton Alley.

The first burying ground in Syracuse comprised a little knoll on Fayette Street, near its junction with Clinton Street. Fifteen or twenty persons were buried there and these bodies have never been removed. Thousands are

constantly passing over the ground wholly unconscious that they are passing over the last resting place of those who once as proudly trod the walks of Syracuse.

Situated on Warren Street between Adams and Harrison Streets, stands an old frame house known as the Huntley estate. The exact date of its erection is not known, but it has been built at least seventy years. The house is of colonial architecture and is painted dark green. A broad piazza extends along the front and a smaller one along the side of it. The roof of both piazzas are supported by massive columns. All the shutters on the house were made by hand as the house was built at the time when conveniences for building houses were not known. At the time when the Huntley house was built, Warren Street was called Pill Row, because all the doctors settled on this street.

One of the most picturesque old houses on James Street, is the Leavenworth house, which was built by General Elias W. Leavenworth in 1835. It is a large house of colonial style with a large piazza across the front. The roof of this porch is supported by pillars of Corinthian architecture. Several flights of steps, guarded by lions conchate, lead up to the house. It is painted white with yellow trimmings and green blinds. This place has been the scene of many brilliant social affairs including a reception to Henry Clay.

The old stone castle known as

Yates' castle was built in 1852 for Mr. C. Tyler Longstreet. It was then known as Renwick Castle or "Longstreet's Folly." The building was then considered a long way out in the country and there was no way of reaching it except by walking or driving. Mr. Yates bought the castle and it received his name. It now belongs to the University and is used as the School of Pedagogy. There are beautiful grounds surrounding it, and, altogether it is one of the most beautiful spots in Syracuse.

On the corner of West Fayette and South West Streets stands a four story wooden building known as the Frontier House. It is not known when it was built, but it was standing in 1832 and received its name because of its location on the frontier. This building was formerly used as a public house, and belonged at one time to Mr. John Greenway. It has recently been raised and a lower story of stone has been built beneath it. The building itself is black with age.

It is not definitely known in what year the Courier building, at the corner of Montgomery and East Genesee Streets, was built. It is made of red brick, and on the east side of the second story is a little balcony from which, on June 10, 1851, Daniel Webster made his famous speech to the people of Syracuse, concerning the Fugitive Slave Law.

The Jerry Rescue Block was erected in 1828 by Mr. Raynor. It is a red brick, four story building on the bank of the Erie Canal at the corner of West Genesee and

Clinton Streets. There is a very interesting event connected with this building, that is, the Jerry Rescue from which it obtained its name. It was a station of the "Underground Railway" and after Jerry McHenry was rescued from jail he was concealed in the building until he was sent safely to Canada.

On the corner of Montgomery and East Genesee Streets is a business block which was built in the early fifties. This is a light colored brick building, four and a half stories high, shaped somewhat like a flatiron. When it was first built it was used as a "select school," conducted by Mr. A. G. Salisbury and patronized by Syracuse's wealthy families. Afterwards it became the first home of the present Syracuse University in this city and was used for that purpose until 1873 when the present Hall of Languages was completed and dedicated. At present the Meyers' Block is used for business purposes.

The following are some very interesting facts which the Rev. William Beauchamp writes: In 1800 Calvin Jackson built a log cabin near the junction of Montgomery and East Genesee Streets. Rufus Stanton opened a tavern on the east side of North Salina Street and south of the Oswego Canal, while Sidney Dole and Milan Taylor had the first store on the site of the present Weiting Block, in 1804. The first postoffice was on the ground now occupied by the Syracuse Savings Bank Building in 1820. When the Postmaster, who was John Wilkinson,

moved his office, he carried everything in one load on his shoulder. In 1820 the first school house was built at the corner of Franklin and Church Streets. It cost \$250 and was 22 feet square. Hiram Deming was the first teacher. In 1824 the First Baptist Church was built just west of the old Court House on West Genesee Street. In 1825, Syracuse had fifteen stores. Mrs. Eliza Spencer, who died April 2, 1824, was the first person interested in the cemetery at Franklin and Water Streets. James Street was known in 1827 as the "Foot Road." Mr. Kirk, a wagon maker, erected in 1869 the first Kirk Block, his son having built the present one. In 1852, the Bastable, Dillaye, Norton and Sheldon Blocks were built. The Reformed Dutch Church was built in 1848 on James Street, and is still standing, and in the next year the Syracuse Savings Bank, the oldest in the city, was erected.

The Teall residence, built in 1819, near the canal on South Beech Street is a very old building, and the Hausenfrat house built in 1824 at the corner of Salina and Jefferson Streets was leased and the land was cultivated as a farm—at present, the center of our busy city.

The Mills' house, a small, one story structure was built by a Mr. Watson for the man in charge of his mill, in 1806. The building was put together with wooden pegs, not a metal nail being used. It is now the oldest building in Syracuse and stands on the second lot, east, on Wallace Street in West Genesee Street.

## Relics of Syracuse

The Onondaga Historical Society's rooms contain many interesting relics connected with Syracuse history from the time of the Indian regime to the Civil War.

In the Indian section are some of the weapons used by the Iroquois; the tomahawk and stone war clubs for defense against human and animal foes, and the wooden masks of the medicine-men for defense against the evil spirits. Here is also a large collection of arrow heads of all sizes and materials. Snow shoes, moccasins, and papoose boards are among this collection.

Of great historic interest are very old broom making machines and wool and flax spinning wheels. A unique relic is the lock of the County Clerk's Office in 1794, the lock measuring about fourteen inches long and eight inches wide, and requiring a key with a flange about 1½ inches square.

A metal foot stove, used in 1830 is one of many peculiar and interesting relics.

Probably the most interesting relic in the building is the pair of shackles which were used in the "Jerry Rescue," one of the episodes of the "Underground Railroad" of which Syracuse was a station.

In the Civil War case are many necessities which were carried by the regiment from Syracuse. A Federal uniform, a snare drum, swords, muskets and the complete

accoutrement of a soldier are displayed here. Not a few shells, balls, and bullets adorn this case. In another case are the battle torn and tattered standards carried by the Syracuse volunteers.

Some very old photographs and maps of Syracuse serve to illustrate its growth since the Erie Canal was constructed.

Of physiographical interest is a large meteoric rock found near Pompey. It weighs 33 pounds and is composed largely of iron, containing also some nickel and cobalt and a large spot of red jasper.

Some of the many other interesting relics are named below:

A human skull was found buried in the earth and it is now in perfect preservation.

A very valuable relic connected with the red men is a painting of the burning of an Onondaga chief in 1696. The occasion was Frontenac's Invasion in Onondaga Village, just south of Jamesville. It is a large picture showing the chief bound to a tree, at the foot of which a fire was started. The other warriors are grouped round about.

An article connected with the Civil War is a drafting wheel used in Syracuse in 1863, for selecting men for the army. It still contains the names of all the men, which fact greatly increases its value as an heirloom.

In the collection is a fireman's

hat, worn by Benjamin Lathrop of Syracuse during his service from 1831 to 1841. It is a long oval shaped hat made from some kind of metal.

Of no little interest are two keys which were used to lock the first two dry goods stores in the village of Syracuse. They resemble the keys of today differing only in respect to size; these being about six inches long and correspondingly thick.

There is also a fire bucket such as each family was forced to keep in the house in Syracuse before the time of fire engines, which did not come into use until the early forties. This fire bucket is about a foot high and as large in diameter as a common plate.

A trowel used in building the first brick house in the village of Syracuse.

A silver service is another interesting relic. It consists of a pitcher and four goblets which were given to Judge Joshua Forman by the citizens of Syracuse in token of appreciation of the valuable services he had rendered them. On the pitcher is engraved the following inscription:

A Tribute of Respect  
Presented by the Citizens of Syracuse  
To Hon. Joshua Forman  
Founder of this Village.

In the same building are also found: the sign of the old Syracuse House, which was located where the Onondaga County Savings Bank now stands; a picture of Camp Onondaga, where the soldiers were trained for the Civil

War. Kirk Park is thought to be the site of this camp. A leather brass nailed trunk used in 1831, by the Longstreets, some of the earliest settlers of Syracuse; a basket over 100 years old, used by the Longstreets; a banjo clock given in 1895 by Mrs. Longstreet; a ballot box used in the town of Salina in 1843 when G. Gardner was elected town clerk. It is believed to be the original box used when the town was organized; and a pitch pipe or whistle taken from the organ of St. John's Church at Hampton, near Fort Monroe by Lieutenant E. B. Jerome. This was the oldest church in America. Brick for the building was imported from England. It was burned by the rebels May 6, 1861.

On the wall of one of the rooms hangs a large picture of an old Indian woman. This is Aunt Dinah, an Onondaga squaw, who died in 1896 at the age of 102 years. The picture is hung in a rustic frame made from the bark of the birch tree, and the gray bark of the tree harmonizes with the gray coloring of the picture.

Aunt Dinah has a kind but very wrinkled face. She is dressed in gray with a gray shawl around her shoulders. In her hands, which are folded in her lap, she holds a pipe with a very long stem. Altogether Aunt Dinah is a typical Onondaga Indian of a time past.

Celeste Fuller of 200 University Avenue has in her possession a picture of a dog guarding the key to the safe of the old Bank of Syracuse.

## Syracuse Hall of Fame

Tracing from the history of antiquity to the present time, down through the centuries, each little community has ever been the proud possessor of a score of distinguished men. These men have won renown for themselves, for their city, for their country, often under the most distressing conditions, little thinking that their names would appear on "History's Pages." why these men, (comparatively few when we consider the population of the globe), have achieved success may be summed up in two words "They dared." Syracuse cannot boast of being the home of great rulers, of brilliant inventors, or of eminent statesmen, but she is justly proud of those men who have made her a city, and many of whom have performed some noble act which has no doubt materially influenced the world. A few, we here mention, who have stood out prominently:

### Ephriam Webster

Ephriam Webster obtains his fame from the fact that he was the first white settler in Onondaga County. He was a roving sort of an individual and lived in many different places before settling in Onondaga County. He lived with some Indians of the Onondaga Nation and was of great aid to them as an interpreter and intercessor. Afterward he received a state grant of some land on the west side of Onondaga Valley

where he lived for several years. He died in Tonawanda in 1826.

### Asa Danforth

Mr. Danforth was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, July 6, 1746. He served through the Revolution with a Major's rank and commission. After the war he settled in Montgomery County and while there was induced by Ephriam Webster to move to Onondaga. He was the most prominent man of the county in his time, and was identified with every interest which tended to promote the welfare of his fellow-men, and advance the prosperity of the country. Thus he was often called upon to fill offices of importance in the county and he performed his duties with credit to himself and satisfaction to everyone concerned. Among his higher positions were, Senator for the Western District and Superintendent of the Onondaga Salt Springs. He was also the highest military officer in Onondaga County, ascending the several grades from Major to Major General. After a life of service and activity he died at his home in Onondaga Hollow, September 2, 1818.

### Comfort Tyler

Another of the earliest settlers in Onondaga was Comfort Tyler. He accompanied Sir James Clinton on the expedition to establish the boundaries between New

York and Pennsylvania, and located permanently in Onondaga in the year 1789. He was personally prominent in every effort of advancement made in the vicinity, and in connection with Mr. Danforth manufactured the first salt and established the salt industry. He served as Assist. Commissary General with the rank of Colonel during the war of 1812 and was an early advocate of the canal policy of the State. He died at Montezuma in August, 1827.

#### **Joshua Forman**

Mr. Forman, the founder of Syracuse, was born in Dutchess County, 1777, and after graduating with honor from Union College he took up the practice of law in Onondaga Hollow in 1800. His influence led to the establishment of a church, academy and stores in the Hollow and he was one of the promoters of the Erie Canal. On account of his prominence in this line he was chosen to address Governor Clinton as he passed through from Buffalo to Albany for the first time. In 1821 he obtained the passage of the law which provided for the lowering of the water in Onondaga Lake two feet. This made Syracuse a healthful place, but before this lowering of the lake the region around was infected with disease. He found Syracuse a collection of perhaps three or four rude houses, but under his efforts were laid the broad and deep foundations of this flourishing city and he is with justice called its founder.

#### **Dr. William Kirkpatrick**

Dr. Kirkpatrick was born in New

Jersey of Scotch parents. He was graduated from Princeton College and took up the study of medicine in Philadelphia. He afterward gave up medicine and in 1805 located at Salina, now a part of Syracuse, as superintendent of the Salt Works. Three years later he was elected a member of the tenth Congress under President Jefferson and, although not exactly prominent in political affairs, he was highly esteemed by all who knew him and his opinion had great influence. In conjunction with others he elected the canal ticket in Onondaga County and accompanied Judge Forman on a call at the White House to discuss the canal question with President Jefferson. He died in 1832 and was buried at Salina.

#### **Gen. Thaddeus M. Wood**

Mr. Wood, one of our famous military men, came to Syracuse to take up the practice of law after being graduated from Dartmouth College. At this time, 1794, he was the only lawyer in Onondaga County. In 1809 he was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel Commandant and served during the War of 1812 as Colonel and Brigadier General. Within twenty-four hours after the news of the descent of the British upon Oswego, he was on his way to the front with nearly a whole regiment. And again when Sackett's Harbor was invaded he despatched messengers at a moment's notice to the Indians and started north with his regiment and Indian allies. He also took a great interest in politics and was never known to be idle. Still, he

had his faults and was not very popular, but when, in 1836, he was laid at rest in the Hollow, his noble and generous qualities found recognition in the hearts of his fellow men.

#### **Gen. Gustavius Sniper**

Although born in Germany, Mr. Sniper received his education in the public schools of Syracuse. Early in life he evinced a great desire for military life and his career was as honorable as any soldier could hope for. He organized a company known as the Monroe Cadets and was their captain at the beginning of the Civil War. In the militia, as a member of the 51st Regiment, he went through all the grades from Corporal to Colonel and Brevet Brigadier General. In the closing campaign of the war he won for himself a name and fame that was spread across the country in newspapers and magazines. At Quaker Road, March 29, 1865, when the colors had been shot down three times, General Sniper sprang forward, raised the flag and, waving it above his head, led his regiment on to victory. He also has a good political record, having served in the Legislature and as Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue.

#### **Elias Warner Leavenworth**

Elias W. Leavenworth was born in Columbia County in December, 1803, and moved to Syracuse in 1827. He won his way rapidly in the legal profession and later achieved great political success. He also was a man of military distinction and held at different times the following offices: Lieu-

tenant of Artillery, Captain of Artillery, Lieutenant Colonel, and Colonel. He was President of Syracuse village for two terms and began a series of public acts which contributed much toward making Syracuse what it is today. Later, when Syracuse became a city, he was elected Supervisor from Salina and while in this office his measures gave the city Vanderbilt Square, Fayette Park and the trees on each side of East Washington Street. He was also Mayor of the city for two terms; Member of the Legislature at two different times; and in 1853 was Secretary of State. Moreover, he was honored as a corresponding member of several historical and genealogical societies. While in the Legislature he held positions of importance and honor and as Chairman of the Select Committee on the Equalization of State Tax, he drew up the bill which established the Board of State Assessors. He also was appointed one of the Commissioners to amend the State Constitution and was one of the Regents' of the University. He was also a member of Congress for one term besides holding positions of purely local importance. He died in the fall of 1887, a man who had served his country and his State as few men are permitted to do.

#### **William Jervis Hough**

Another Syracusan of national importance was William Jervis Hough. He was a general in the New York State Militia and during the Mexican War was tendered a Brigadier Generalship by President Polk. He served both

in the Assembly and in Congress. While in Washington he was influential in the erection of the Smithsonian Institute, was one of its first Regents and served on the Board for the remainder of his life. He also held positions of local interest and died October 4, 1869.

#### **Amos P. Granger**

Mr. Granger was born in Hartford, Connecticut, and came to Syracuse in 1821. Although his renown is connected mostly with local history, he also served a term in Congress and his record was most honorable. His interest there was primarily in connection with the Republican War and Reconstruction Policy of which he was a firm supporter. He was also a general and commanded a regiment of Militia on duty at Sackett's Harbor in 1812.

Among other prominent men who will long be remembered by the people of Syracuse and vicinity are the following:

**Joseph Slocum**, the owner of the first line of boats for transportation on the Erie Canal and the one who first introduced the American plow in Russia.

**Horace White**, who took an active interest in the building of the first railroads in the state and was on the first board of directors of the New York Central & Hudson River Railroad.

**Hamilton White**, another railroad man, who was at one time a director in every railroad company between Albany and Chi-

cago except the Cleveland and Toledo, and who also gave liberally of time and money during the Rebellion.

**John Wilkinson**, also interested in railroads, who for two years operated the Terre Haute, Alton & St. Louis Railroad in his own name as Trustee and Receiver, and who, as president of the Syracuse Water Works, adopted the plan of collecting water from springs and streams into a reservoir.

**Hon. Daniel P. Wood**, the great legislator, who accompanied President Lincoln on his journey to the Capital, and was appointed chairman of the special committee to conduct President Lincoln's remains through the State.

**John Crouse**, the philanthropist to whom Syracuse owes the donation of the beautiful John Crouse College of Fine Arts on University Hill.

**Robert Gere**, philanthropist and contractor, who was a heavy contractor for the rails and ties of the first two railroads that came to our city and also for the Salina locks and section work for the Liverpool level of the Oswego Canal.

**Prof. A. B. Blodgett**, whose recent death was mourned by all Syracusans, has had an enviable record as an instructor. In Syracuse he was principal of Salina School and later of Prescott School. He held the position of Superintendent of Schools from 1889 till his death in 1910.

**Hon. William B. Kirk**, builder and owner of the magnificent Kirk Block, won distinction as a Democratic Mayor.

**Hon. Charles B. Sedgwick**, another popular lawyer, served twice in Congress and held other positions of trust. He died in 1883.

**Hon. Carroll E. Smith**, a graduate of the Seward Institute, learned the printers' trade in the office of the Syracuse Journal. He became a local reporter for the paper and later an associate editor of the "Daily Chronicle." In 1860 he took editorial charge of the Journal and continued at its head. Mr. Smith has also served as County Clerk and as Postmaster. He was a member of the Assembly and a member of the Board of Regents.

**Dr. John W. Wieting** worked earnestly teaching school in winter and during the summer attended the Clinton Liberal Institute. At the age of twenty he acted as civil engineer for the construction of the Syracuse & Utica R. R. He afterward studied medicine and became a physician and lecturer of great prominence and success. The present Wieting Block and Opera House were built and named after him.

So might we continue with notes in praise of those citizens who have brought to Syracuse the stones with which to lay her political, religious and educational foundation, a foundation which we trust will stand firm for many years to come.

## SYRACUSE INDUSTRIES

### THE SALT INDUSTRY

The salt springs, more than anything else, were responsible for the settling and early prosperity of Syracuse.

About the middle of the seventeenth century, several of the Jesuit missionaries in what is now the State of New York heard of certain springs which were regarded with superstition and said to be possessed of demons. Upon investigation these were found to be saline and the Indians were shown that the demons could be exorcised by fire.

In the "Relations" of the Jesuit Fathers Jerome, Lallemont, Chare-

voix, Crauxius and Simon Le Moyne we find the earliest records of the salt springs. This discovery of salt springs led to the manufacture of salt by the Indians and traders. In 1770 salt was in common use among the Delaware Indians.

The systematic manufacture of salt was begun in Syracuse in 1788. At this time Asa Danforth and Col. Comfort Tyler undertook its manufacture in a primitive way, their outfit consisting of a five-pail kettle suspended over an open fire.

On September 12th, 1788, the state of New York purchased the

so-called salt reservation, comprising some 20,000 acres of land, surrounding Onondaga Lake, from the Onondaga Indians, one of the Five Nations. The condition of the sale was that "it shall remain forever for the common benefit of the people of the state of New York and the Onondagas for the purpose of making salt."

William Van Fleck and Moses DeWitt built the first arch with four potash kettles in 1793.

The first laws regulating the manufacture of salt were passed in 1797 and William Stevens was

Tully Hills, seventeen miles south of Syracuse where a bed of rock salt forty-three feet in thickness was reached at a depth of 1218 feet. A second bed of over fifty feet in thickness was found under a layer of shale at the bottom of the first bed. This rock salt deposit is the source of the Onondaga brine.

Two methods of manufacturing salt were at one time in vogue in Syracuse. The first consisted of gradually reducing the brine to salt by boiling in large kettles. The second consisted of forcing



#### THE SALT LANDS

elected the first superintendent of the salt reservation.

The first large salt hole was sunk by Supt. Kirkpatrick in 1806 and in 1820 the first britternpan was introduced for the removal of impurities found in the brine in the kettles.

In 1821 were erected the first solar vats for the manufacture of coarse salt and at the same time, the first attempt was made to bore for rock salt north of what is now Syracuse, by Major Benajah Byington. This was a failure, but in 1881 a well was sunk at the foot of

water into the beds of rock salt and withdrawing it after it had become saturated. Then it was exposed to the sun in large wooden vats until the water evaporated and the salt deposited. This latter is the solar system.

In the year 1797 the salt beds yielded 25,500 bushels of salt to the efforts of the Indians. In 1808 the work of the white men had brought the production to 320,000 bushels. Salt was the leading industry up to and including 1860. In that year the value of the product was \$1,300,000. From that

year the salt business has been gradually declining. In 1861 the yield was 7,000,000 bushels. From that time to 1899 the output has varied from 5,000,000 to 8,000,000 bushels. In 1911 it was 2,000,000 bushels.

The salt industry is now something like the 24th industry in point of value of the product, with one-tenth production that there was 50 years ago. If a process to manufacture salt cheaply could be found so that Syracuse could compete with the great Michigan salt mines, the industry would again reach its height, as the capacity of the Onondaga Salt Springs has been estimated at 15,000,000 bushels annually and with the Tully salt beds this could easily be doubled.

On June 13, 1908, the state went out of the business of making salt by selling the Onondaga Salt Springs, which cost about \$30,000, to private individuals for half of that amount. The Legislature of 1898 ordered this sale of property because for many years the state had not realized a cent from the manufacture of salt. The receipts from duties up to the time of sale amounted to between \$18,000 and \$20,000, which was expended in salaries and necessary repairs. The last state superintendent was Hoyt H. Freeman. The property was bought by the Onondaga Coarse Salt Association and the Mutual Pipe Line Co. On March 13, 1912, the Union Salt Company sold its old salt reservation in the West End to P. I. Johnson.

It is surprising, that this industry, which so helped to build up

Syracuse should now be one of the least important industries of the city.

References—Booklet of the Onondaga Coarse Salt Association, Syracuse, N. Y. Newspaper Clippings.

#### **The Franklin Automobile Co.**

In 1893 the Franklin Die Casting Co. was organized and located in one room of a building on W. Onondaga Street. For the next two years the company continued in its first quarters. From 1895 to 1899 a building on Franklin Street was used. The upper floor of the C. E. Lipe Building on So. Geddes Street became temporary quarters of the firm in February, 1899.

Until 1901 the Franklin Company manufactured die castings by a special process which Mr. Franklin patented. In July of this year the company became interested in an air cooled motor. The ideas of Mr. Wilkinson, the inventor, were developed and in November the first motor was completed. It was the first successful air cooled motor built in America. The first stock car was sold in June, 1902.

Quarters in the Lipe Building were becoming small and work on the permanent home of the H. H. Franklin Mfg. Co. began in July, 1902. Originally a single building was erected, but additions have been made until the factory now consists of 15 buildings, covering six acres of land.

Many fine records are held by Franklin cars, among them the San Francisco to New York rec-

ord and the Chicago to New York record are most prominent.

The first trucks of the Franklin type were built in 1905.

#### **Syracuse Chilled Plow Co.**

In 1876 the Robinson Plow Co. of Canandaigua was removed to Syracuse and incorporated as the Syracuse Chilled Plow Co., with a working capital of \$100,000. The company manufactures the only adjustable steel beam plow on the market. The capital has been increased from time to time until it is now \$300,000. The John Deere Plow Co., recently acquired possession of the business.

#### **Crucible Steel Co. of America**

The Crucible Steel Co. of America is owner of two large steel plants in Syracuse. The older of these plants, the Sanderson Bros.' Steel Co. was established in 1876. The main factory is in Sheffield, England. The Syracuse branch, using a secret process produces some of the best American steel.

The Halecomb Steel Co., is a comparatively new company and is manufacturing very fine tool steel.

#### **The Straight Line Engine Co.**

Prof. John E. Sweet organized the Straight Line Engine Co. in 1880 to manufacture an engine he had designed and patented. The engine proved one of the best produced and was sold in all parts of the United States. The Company still manufactures this engine though Prof. Sweet is not as actively connected with the firm as formerly.

#### **Onondaga Pottery Co.**

Until 1871 the majority of pottery used in this country was imported from England. In that year the Onondaga Pottery Co. opened its plant in this city. The quality of Syracuse pottery was fully equal to any in the world. The plant is still in operation in the city.

#### **Solvay Process Co.**

The Solvay Process Co. has the largest single plant in the vicinity of Syracuse and is the largest plant of its kind in the world. The products are numerous, among the most important being alkali, soda ash, caustic soda, soda crystals, soda bicarbonate and calcium soda.

These products are all obtained from limestone taken from the company's quarries at Jamesville. The old quarries at Split Rock have been abandoned in the last year because of the decreasing supply of limestone of the quality required.

Three thousand laborers are employed by the company. Since 1881, when the company was established its employees have increased constantly.

During 1910 over twenty thousand railroad cars were used in the shipment of products, an average of about seventy carloads per day, Sunday excepted.

#### **Typewriter Industry**

One of Syracuse's thriving industries, one that has helped maintain the city's industrial standing is the manufacture of typewriters.

The Smith Premier Typewriter Company is a member of the "Trust." Their machines are sold all over the world, foreign branches being maintained in the large countries.

However the L. C. Smith Company appears to be producing more machines than the Smith-

Premier. The L. C. Smith Company is an independent concern and has built its business on the policy of "One Dollar's Worth for One Dollar."

The Monarch Typewriter Company also began in Syracuse, but through various causes has failed to keep pace with either of the other two companies.

## SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Syracuse University had its inception in the Centennial of Methodism in 1866. The Methodist Episcopal Church had resolved to raise in that year \$2,000,000 and to make an educational institution the chief object of its benefactions.

There were at that time under the care of the Methodist denomination several seminaries in the State of New York, but only one college. This was Genesee College located at Lima, a small village distant from a railroad station. It had been in operation since 1851 doing excellent work, but because of the disadvantage of its location had not prospered as much as had been anticipated. When efforts were made for centennial educational collections in New York, the question of a new university site at once became prominent. After much discussion it was resolved to seek a central location to which the Genesee College might be removed. Of all the trustees of the latter institution only one opposed the removal. Of course the citizens of

Lima violently opposed such action, and secured an injunction against the trustees, prohibiting it. The work, however, of founding the new university did not halt. In 1867 the city of Syracuse voted an appropriation of \$100,000 to the university conditional upon the raising of \$100,000 additional for endowment. On February 22nd a Methodist Episcopal convention for the State of New York was held in Syracuse, at which it was determined to establish the university in that city and recommended immediate action to raise at least \$500,000 for its endowment. Subscriptions were solicited and \$181,000 was subscribed. This, with previous valid subscriptions and the pledge of the city, made the total amount of the fund for the new institution \$385,000.

A provisional board of trustees was elected and steps taken to secure a charter. In January, 1871, the valid pledges to the enterprise reached \$425, 000 and on the 24th of April following the city issued bonds to the university amounting

to \$100,000. In May Eliphalet Remington gave to the university an interest in a block in Syracuse worth \$80,000.

During the same month a site of fifty acres in the southeast part of the city was presented by George F. Comstock and plans for the Hall of Languages were adopted.

On September 1, 1871, the College of Liberal Arts opened its first session in the Myers Block with forty-one students and five professors. It continued to occupy that building until the Hall of Languages was completed and dedicated in May, 1873. In December, 1871, the Medical College was established and began its work in the autumn of 1872.

The College of Fine Arts was established in June, 1873, and opened on September 18th following. Thus was Syracuse University founded.

In the autumn of 1886 E. F. Holden of Syracuse determined to erect a working observatory as a memorial to his son, who graduated in the class of 1877 and died in Syracuse in February, 1883. This observatory is built of rock-faced gray limestone, and is about 40 by 40 feet in extreme dimensions. It is equipped with an eight-inch Alvan Clark telescope, a four-inch reversible transit, micrometer, chronograph, chronometer, astronomical clock and other necessary apparatus. In April, 1877, Mrs. John Reid of New York purchased the great library of Leopold Von Ranke, of Berlin, Germany and offered it to Syracuse University on condition that a

suitable building be erected to contain it. Accordingly in the following September a library building 80 by 90 feet with a capacity of 130,000 volumes was begun, which was finished in June, 1889.

One of the most magnificent gifts ever received by the University is the Memorial College for Women, erected by the late John Crouse of Syracuse and finished by his son, D. Edgar Crouse. This structure is of Long Meadow red sandstone, 162 by 190 feet, extreme dimensions and is one of the most imposing of buildings. It contains a magnificent music hall, a large organ and has been amply and elegantly furnished by its donors.

The University opens all its courses of study on equal terms to students of both sexes.

The chancellors of the University have been as follows: Rev. Daniel Steel, 1871-72; Alexander Winchell, 1872-74; E. A. Haven, 1874-80; Charles Sims, 1880-93; Rev. James Day, present chancellor.

In point of registration the University now ranks fifth among the universities and colleges of the country and its faculty ranks equally well.

At present the University is beautifully situated on a hill in the eastern part of the city. It is one of the prominent places of the surrounding country. There are many fine buildings devoted to the use of six colleges, which are: the College of Liberal Arts; the College of Medicine; the College of Fine Arts; College of

Law; College of Applied Science and the Teachers' College. A School of Forestry has recently been established.

The campus of one hundred acres is being laid out in drives and walks and will be a fine example of landscape gardening when completed. The city has been contemplating bonding itself further for the improvement of the campus.

At no other university is more attention paid to the physical development of the students. The gymnasium in equipment and size

is the largest and most complete building of its kind in the world. The Stadium, modeled after the Coliseum at Rome, is the largest place of its kind for the exhibition of sports and games in America. There is a diamond, a fine gridiron and a track. Outside of the track is a band of turf five feet wide, above this a promenade in front of tiers of seats so that from all seats a fine view of everything taking place on the field is obtained. It will normally hold 20,000 people and is capable of holding 40,000.

## SYRACUSE HIGH SCHOOL

The Syracuse High School, one of the pioneers of the secondary educational movements in this state, was organized in April, 1854, and its first quarters were the upper rooms in Prescott School, then called School No. 5. Charles O. Roundy was the first principal and Perz Brown was his assistant. The Board of Education which organized this school consisted of two members from each ward: John McCarthy, Wm. F. Gere, Walter C. Hopkins, Mathew Murphy, P. S. Stoddard, S. A. Johnson, N. F. Graves, J. G. Wynkoop, H. L. Dunsmore, A. E. Kinnie, William Bliss, Ashley William Hall, H. S. Hatch, E. F. Hayden, W. H. H. Smith and George Barney.

From Prescott School the High School was moved to the upper rooms of Genesee School. After a time this being found too

crowded, rooms were secured in the Pike Block. By this move the furniture was changed from plain pine desks and benches to cherry desks and varnished chairs. In 1867 the membership of the High School having grown to such proportions as to be entirely too large for the Pike Block the old High School in West Genesee Street, (now the Technical High School), was constructed, taking the place of an old red mill, which occupied the site. The old building cost \$51,950 and the lot cost \$16,000.

The principals from the organization of the High School to the present time have been: 1854-1871, Charles O. Roundy; 1871, A. G. Salisbury, temporary; 1871, permanent, Dr. W. A. Brownell; 1873-1878, Samuel Thurber; 1878 to October, 1888, Prof. George A. Bacon; 1888-1905, W. K. Wicks; 1905, — Charles F. Harper.

The teachers now in service who have been teaching in the High School for many years are Mrs. Emma H. Kingsley, teacher of German. She became a member of the faculty in 1881. The other teachers of long service are: Miss M. L. Overacre, who entered in '85; Miss Mary Whitford, who entered in '87; George A. Lewis, W. K. Wickes, C. L. Hewitt, and Oscar Kenyon.

The oldest High School society is the Lyceum, which started in the late eighties. Prof. Wickes divided this society into two parts, the boys and the girls divisions. The latter division retained its name and the boys division was called Congress.

Some of the charter members of Congress were, Edward C. Britcher, George B. Spaulding, E. Whittic, Walter B. Stone, William J. Gere, and many others. The other societies are the Philomathean,

Adelphean, Florimel, Alethean, Soangetaha and Echeoratia, girls' societies; Scientific and Senate, boys' societies.

During the existence of the school two monthly papers have been published, the Tribune and the Recorder. The former started in the early eighties and was an interesting magazine. George B. Spaulding served the Tribune in a business capacity. A forecast of the members of the class of '88 mentions Clarence L. Hewitt, who is now at the head of the history department of the schools. The forecast says that Hewitt's ambition of that day was to be a preacher.

The present High School paper, The Recorder, is a very enterprising sheet and is published monthly. It is the successor of the Tribune and has been in existence for fifteen years.

### **Tribute to George Herbert Clark**

"In memory to George Herbert Clark, who, November, 1903, by heroic deed lost his mortal life, but gained youth immortal.

The above is inscribed on a tablet in Central High School to George H. Clark, who lost his life endeavoring to rescue a fellow student from drowning.

### **In Conclusion**

We have now traced the growth of the city of Syracuse from its humble beginning to the enviable standard which it has attained. But the city has not yet reached the goal to which it aspires and in

the future we trust that some of the students who follow us may amend this work with a history of the progress of the Central City from the present time to their own.